

Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 48.58

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

PASSING GAS



A gas pressure gauge is seen at a snow-covered transit point on the main pipeline from Russia in the village of Boyarka, near Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. A natural gas crisis loomed over Europe on Tuesday, as a contract dispute between Russia and Ukraine shut off Russian gas supplies to six countries and reduced gas deliveries to several others.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

OFFENSIVE BREES



This Dec. 21, 2008 file photo shows New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees during the first quarter of an NFL football game at Ford Field in Detroit. Brees won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award, Tuesday Jan. 6, 2009, after nearly setting a passing record for yards.

See *Sports Today*

Missing since May 30th, 2005

Aruba still in search for Natalee Holloway

ORANJESTAD - The Public Prosecutors Office Aruba and the Aruban Police Force would like to give you an updated

summary about the investigation into the disappearance of Natalee Holloway.

Why? Three reasons

First of all there is the fact that a few months ago, based on the results of the investigation, the estimate was that the investigation could be ended by the end of 2008. More specifically I am referring to the re-opened investigation into the suspect in this case, Joran van der Sloot, against whom the criminal investigation was restarted after the broadcast of a Peter R. de Vries investigation last February. Because that program caused a new stream of information, this information first has to be examined which will take at least another few months.

Secondly, about six weeks ago an interview with Joran van der Sloot was broadcasted on an American cable news Channel. In this interview Joran tells a completely new version of the alleged facts that occurred concerning the disappearance of Natalee Holloway. Before showing the interview and in the days after the show the Aruban Prosecutors Office and the Aruban Police were alleged to be corrupt and unwilling to investigate possible leads in this case. We find it fit to address those allegations today.

The third reason is that my Office and the Police Department would like to urge all people that have information about things that have occurred on May 30th 2005 or about persons that are or might be involved in this case, whatever that information may be, to hand that information over to the Police or to the Public Prosecutors Office.

For a good understanding of the facts I would like to take you back to December 18th 2007. It was on that day that the three suspects in this case got official notice from my Office that the criminal investigation into their possible involvement in this case was ended. This did not mean that the investigation into the disappearance of Natalee Holloway also ended. On the contrary. That investigation never stopped. If new information or evidence would come up, the criminal investigation against any suspect in this case could be re-opened. This is possible as long as the statute of limitations does not prohibit this.

No one could imagine at that time that within a month from that decision this Office was confronted with the information that Dutch crime investigator Peter R de Vries had made secret camera shots of Joran van der Sloot talking about the case against a civilian under cover. After my Office got the tapes and before the actual broadcast of the Peter R. de Vries program, on our request the criminal investigation against Joran was re-opened by the investigating judge. At the same time the investigation was fully operational again and had as a main goal to find as much corroborating evidence as possible of what Joran van der Sloot had told the under cover. The judge was asked to approve the third consecutive custody of Joran van der Sloot. The investigating judge against whose decision this Office lodged an appeal at the Common Court of Appeal in Curacao denied this approval. The Court of Appeal upheld the investigating judges' decision, thus disabling Police to re-arrest Joran van der Sloot.

It is proper to take another look at the Court of Appeals' decision. The Court of Appeal took into account the footage that was handed over by Peter de Vries as well as all the old investigative results of over nearly 3 years of investigation. Weighing whether



there was enough new serious material, evidence (necessary to be able to put one into custody) the Court decided that the new elements that Joran had told the under cover were not corroborated by "objective facts".

On top of that the Court considered the fact that the suspect already had argued that there are objective facts that contradict the new elements that were told by him to the under cover. The fact that Joran has supplied the Police with a motive for his lying behavior and the fact that he has admitted that he often is not telling the truth, makes, according to the Court of Appeal, that the self incriminating new statements of Joran are devaluated.

In short: there is no corroborating evidence for the new self incriminating statements of Joran and the value of these statements is undermined by his own statement about his credibility.

What does the Court's decision imply when we take a closer look?

1. After an extensive and intensive investigation, the contents of the Police file combined with the new statements of Joran, does not hold enough evidence necessary to pass the threshold for a third consecutive term of pretrial custody.
2. Logical conclusion from the above mentioned must be, that the evidence that we do have in the extensive files, is not enough to convict this suspect.

For that reason this Office has made the gathering of these "objective facts" that can serve as evidence against the main suspect it's primary goal for the investigation from that point on.

Continued on Page 14

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New Nightly Special at Tango Restaurant

PALM BEACH – Very recently Tango Argentinean Grill & Restaurant introduced their new scheme of nightly specials.

Monday Night Big Steak Night

For the real Steak lovers we have special prices on all our perfectly grilled Steaks. Promo features T-Bone steak, Porterhouse, Rib-eye and Filet Mignon.. Only @ Monday night enjoy our big steaks night for small prices

Tuesday Night

Local Night @ Tango Argentine Grill. We serve a 3-course menu all throughout the night only for locals \$25....

Wednesday Night

All you can eat Ribs night

@ Tango for only \$ 25,- Are you up for the challenge...?!!

Grilled on our famous open grill...no limit to BBQ Ribs!

Thursday Night

Argentina Night @ Tango

Would you like a taste of Argentina come and see us on Thursday nights when we serve a mixed grill of argentine cut beef, chorizo and grilled chicken in combination with an Argentine recipe glass of Sangria. Combo for only \$22,50

Friday Night

Grilled Seafood night @ Tango

Only on Fridays we bring back our famous Surf and Turf, come and enjoy a perfectly grilled steak served with huge

Jumbo shrimp for only \$25

Or enjoy our open grilled Catch of the Day served with garlic or Creole sauce. Or take a little of everything with our great Pasta Buenos Aires where we combine seafood with marinara sauce and linguini pasta.

Saturday Night

Cocktail Night@ Tango

We have a happy hour that will last all night!! We serve all traditional cocktails like Sex on the beach, Aruba Ariba, Long Island, Margarita's and much more for just \$4 so come to Tango to start your night out!! Enjoy your drink on our terrace with live music!

Sunday Night

Dessert Night @ Tango



Features special prices on great tasting desserts like Cheesecake and Flan Caramel, or maybe Tango Crepe with ice cream it's your delicious choice!

Monday till Sunday we serve Early Bird specials from 5pm till 7 pm!

A three course dinner for only \$ 25,-☐

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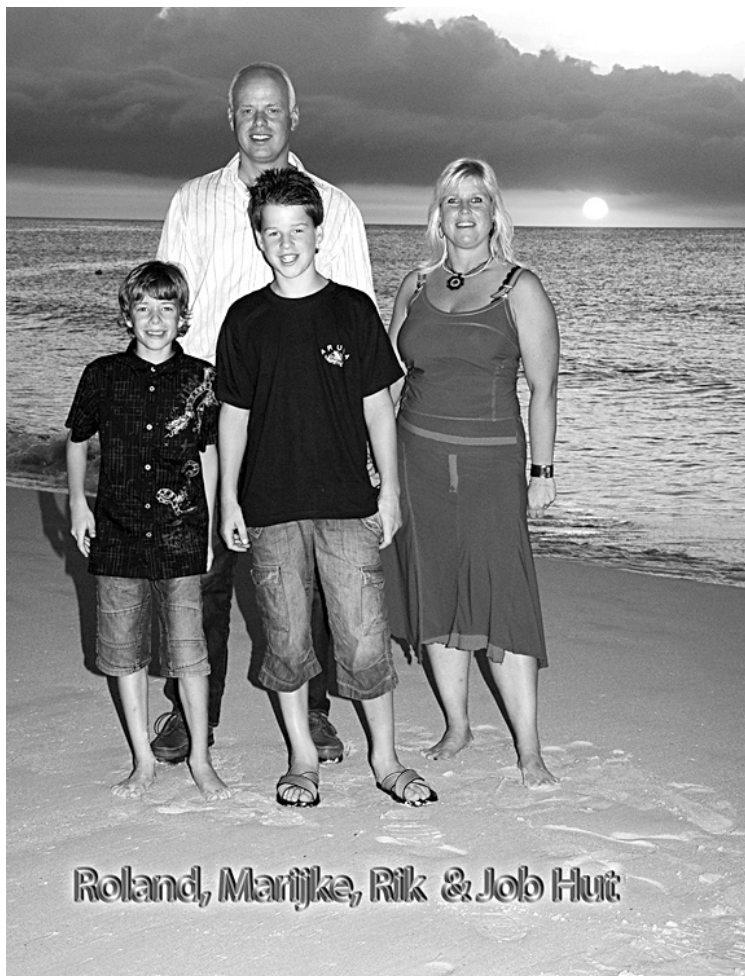
For information call **297.586.1010** (local) or **866.978.6797** (toll-free), visit our Membership Galleries at Tierra del Sol or at Paseo Herencia Mall, or go to www.anabui.com.

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Herman and Dora Hut celebrate 40th anniversary with loved ones



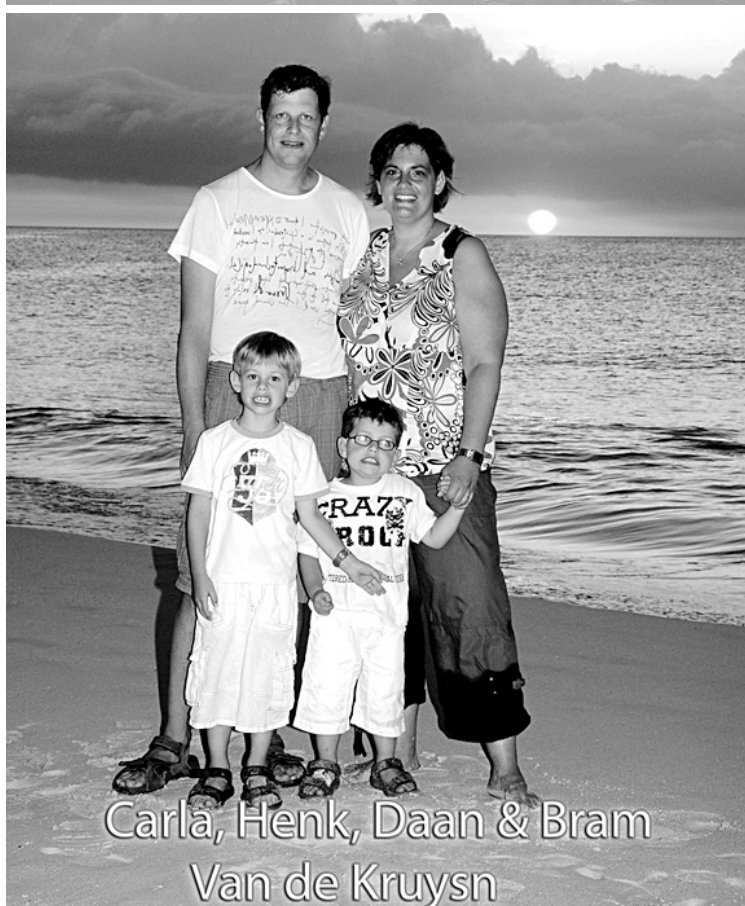
Roland, Marijke, Rik & Job Hut



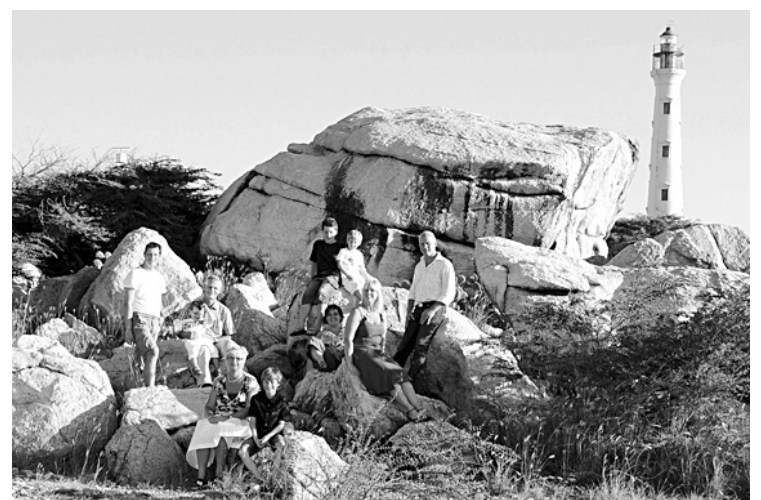
ARUBA- A perfect day for a loving couple celebrating 40 years of marriage. Herman and Dora Hut are locals on the island living at Spanish Lagoon "Parkietenbos." This holiday season brought together their children who flew in from Holland to celebrate the special occasion.

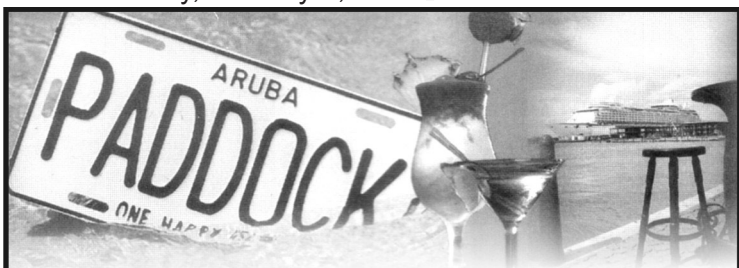
The family includes Roland and his wife Marijke Hut with their 2 boys Rik, 12 years, and Job, 9 years and Carla and her husband Henk van de Kruysn and they also have 2 boys Daan, 5 years, and Bram, 3 years. The whole family enjoyed being together and rekindling the good old times while Opa and Oma enjoyed their four grandchildren.

The family decided on a special photo shoot and called Angela Munzenhofer with Bella Aruba Photography. On January 3, 2009 Angela took the family around Aruba's natural beauty on the rough side and finished at their resort at Amsterdam Manor. Roland's best friend Eduardo Semerel also joined in on the photo shoot as he is a part of the family and did not want to miss a photograph with his good friends. The sunset was a fierce ball of perfection for this special 40th anniversary and the family enjoyed a romantic dinner at Passion's on the beach. □



Carla, Henk, Daan & Bram Van de Kruysn





THE PADDOCK-WEEK

SUNDAY

11PM TILL 01AM \$2-BAR
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BURGERS for \$10**

MONDAY

LIVE MUSIC

ENJOY A RELAXED AND CASUAL DINNER
ON OUR TERRACE WITH A BEAUTIFUL
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TUESDAY

LIVE MUSIC

2 FOR TUESDAY HAPPY HOUR
FROM 11PM TILL MIDNIGHT
"ASK ONE-GET-TWO"

WEDNESDAY

ALL U CAN EAT RIBS
only \$13 starting at 5pm
Student Night All Drinks **\$1.50**
11pm to 1am

THURSDAY

Live Music
"DUTCH MEAL"
Weekly something different

FRIDAY

DUTCH HAPPY HOUR from 5 till 7pm
Half Price on 1 BEER and 1 MIX DRINKS!
FREE SNACKS!!

SATURDAY

**RED HOT
SATURDAY**

Every hour 15 min. \$1.00

**We serve Breakfast at 8:30am
EVERY DAY**



www.paddock-aruba.com

Start of Beach Tennis Ranking '09

Beach Tennis royalty '08 gears up for new, exciting season



EAGLE BEACH - The 2008 Beach Tennis Kings and Queens as well as mere mortals are gearing up for the new, exciting Beach Tennis season which will start on Sunday, January 11 on Eagle Beach. Lots of action on the courts, great music and a bar will get the hot ambiance that is the beach tennis trademark. Dutch champion Ronald van Slooten is playing and Bermudian super hero and tournament director Tony Brannon will match his skills in the sand with several local hotshots.

The monthly rankings precede the two international tournaments held in June and November at MooMba Beach. Two courts accommodate anyone who wishes to practice and various club activities are in the planning stage. The rankings are sponsored by Amstel Bright, Alno Kitchen NV, Aruba Aloe, Best & solid/Century 21, I Love Aruba guide and

Trane. For more information, registration, dates and updates, please check out the www.arubabeachtennis.com website or call 583-7074/5926421. As usual, juniors can just show up to play at 10 am; adults need to register in advance and start playing at noon. The location is Eagle Beach, next to Costa Linda. Everyone is welcome to play!

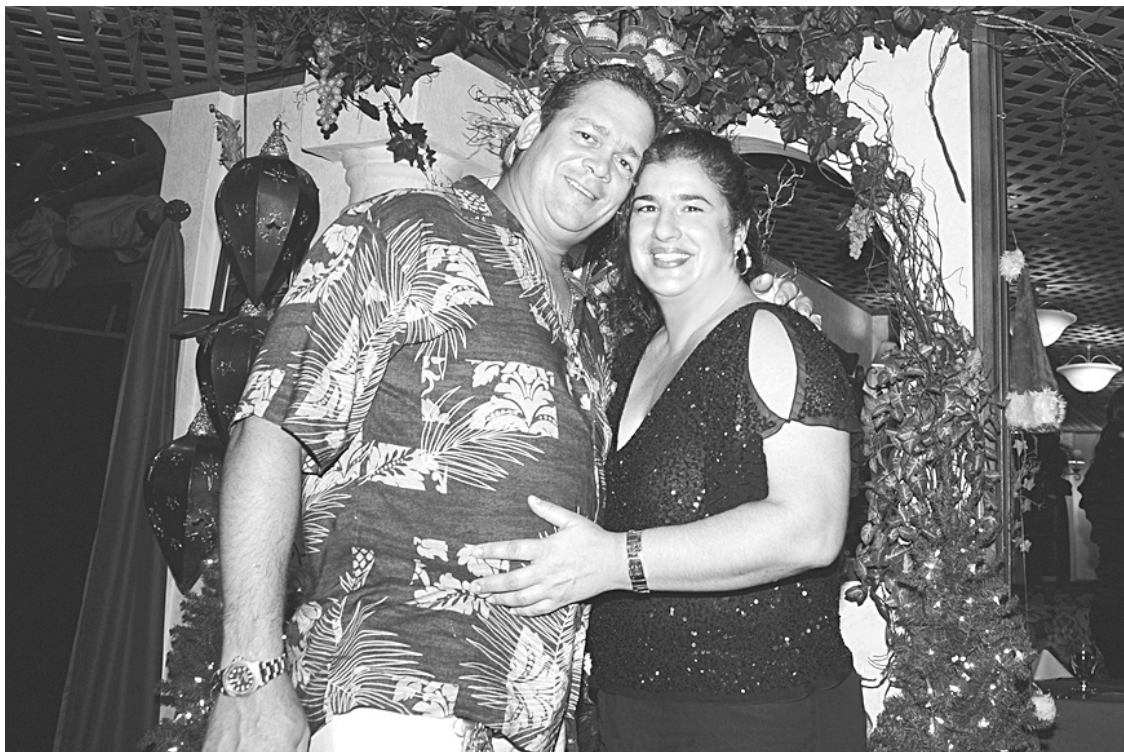
The results of the 2008 ranking are as follows:

Youth Advanced:	Lukas Steinbakker (125 pts)
Fun Ladies:	Marloes Kleys (70)
Advanced Ladies:	Yvonne Baay (100)
Advanced Men:	Dennis Schoneveld (165)
Fun Mixed:	John Douglas (105)
Fun Men:	Paul v.d. Sloot (107)
Pro Men:	Jochem Ros (195)
Pro Ladies:	Jolanda Sluys (160)



"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

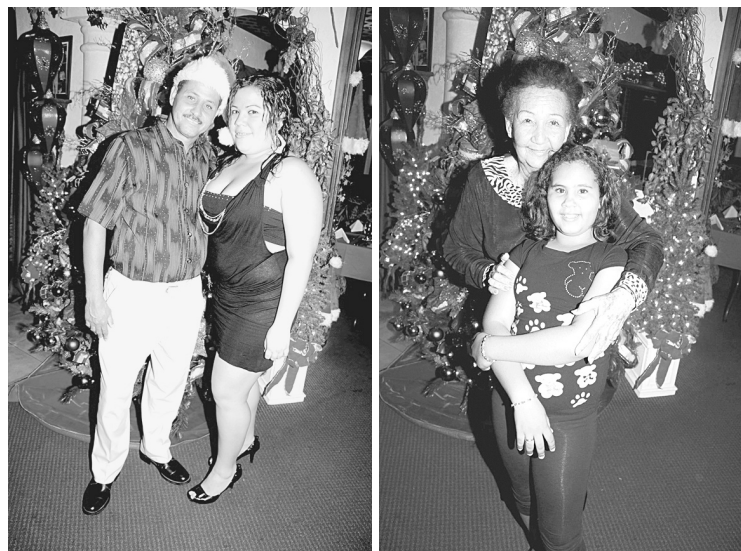
Buccaneer Restaurant celebrates the holidays at Promenade



ORANJESTAD - The Buccaneer Restaurant staff was in holiday cheer at Promenade Restaurant. After a busy December month of Christmas dinners for many of Aruba's businesses and a grand slam buffet for

Buccaneer's first Christmas Eve Buffet the staff enjoyed a night out. Everyone enjoyed mingling and laughing and reminiscing about old times while they enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Promenade. Chef Peter

came around the table and wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. Buccaneer is ready for 2009 with brunch specials and Chef Franklin is busy preparing his special dishes and daily soups.



Buccaneer RESTAURANT

Buccaneer Restaurant is an island tradition for over 25 years that serve creative dishes prepared with a European touch with irresistible secret flavorings which continue to lure guests back, again and again. *Feast on fresh Caribbean catch in one of the cozy booths with a view of an aquarium at each seat, surrounded by tropical splendor and nautical decor. Our second dining room resembles an underwater cave, complete with a 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, unseen elsewhere.* Our friendly staff is here to give you the "Welcome Aboard" feeling and the chef-owner will personally take care of you.

Located at Gasparito 11-C,
between low and high rise hotels.
Closed on Sundays -
serving dinners
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Phone: 297-586-6172

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Wednesday: BBQ Night!

\$19.95 per person plus service charge

Featuring mouthwatering Texas BBQ Beef Brisket, Chicken & Ribs. Accompanied by Rice, Vegetables, Gourmet Salad Bar and Dessert Station.

Dinner Buffet: 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.



All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet
LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult.

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Nightly Special: Fine Dining

USDA Prime Beef, Fresh Seafood and Spa Cuisine
Voted "2007 Best Restaurant in the Caribbean"
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Choose from indoor art deco ambiance or open-air terrace dining.

Reservations Recommended



The Larimar Spa at the Radisson Aruba features nine beautifully appointed treatment rooms, offering a full menu of services including advanced skin care therapies, therapeutic and integrated massages, exfoliating, nourishing and detoxifying body treatments including body polishes and wraps, and a full-service salon...all certain to ensure your return to indulge time after time.

- Massages
- Body Treatments
- Facials/Skincare
- Salon Services
- Gift Certificates

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
For appointments, call 526.6053

LarimarSpaAruba.com



MiraSoloAruba.com

Martini Bar

Our outdoor lounge perched atop cascading waterfalls and open to sun, stars and cooling breezes. Liquid pleasures await...premium vodkas, scotches, cognacs, and tequilas - or choose from our Martini Madness menu. The place to start, end or spend the evening!

Open weekdays from 4 p.m. and weekends from 3 p.m.

Live music with "El Prove"



GilligansAruba.com

Casual Beachside Dining

Breakfast: 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. • Dinner: 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Sunset Salute Happy Hour with Live Entertainment

Daily 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Bar: 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

T.H. Palm & Company is hosted its 5th Girls Night Out



Palm Beach – T.H. Palm & Company on Palm Beach hosted a fun party recently, its 5th annual Girls' Night Out.

The party invites friends and clients to come out for the night, and bring a friend along, to preview the season's exciting new gifts, as paired with tastings of international hors d'oeuvres & cocktails.

T.H. Palm & Company is located on Palm Beach in front of Playa Linda Beach Resort and offers free parking just across the street.

The evening promised to be fun, yet most importantly the event guaranteed to help our island community with much-needed funds for charity.

More than one year ago, T.H. Palm & Company embarked on an ongoing journey of world repair, Tikkun Olam, in the words of the ancient Kabala.

Owner Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn explains that for its charity centerpiece T.H. Palm & Company borrowed the historical, important principle of Tikkun Olam from the Kabala, dedicating eternity to making a difference, thinking globally and acting locally.

The Hebrew phrase that means "repairing the world" or "perfecting the world," has served the company as a platform to raise funds for local community projects, and patrons direct a portion of their purchases to their preferred charity via a posted in-store Tikkun Olam community menu.

Tikkun Olam's community menu calls locals and visitors to join hands with T.H. Palm & Company and pledge 2% of the total sale to one of the following foundations:

Imeldahof, providing foster care to children ages 6-18 since 1954; Fundacion Pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, Foundation for Abused Women, providing a safe haven and help for victims of spousal abuse since 1995; Stichting Edmund E. Harms Foundation, providing hospice care to terminal cancer patients since 1996; Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds voor de Kankerbestriding op Aruba, Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation, offering support for cancer patients, survivors and their families since 1961; Telefon pa Hubentud Aruba, Teen Telephone Helpline, offering telephone support to youth ages 8-18 since 2003; Fundacion pa nos Grandinan, Centro Kibrahacha, offering daily recreational activities for the elderly since 1985. Donations will be paid out quarterly.

Substantial donations were made in 2008, and Salamander Holdings NV, the mother company of T. H. Palm & Company hopes that again this year the public will be generous with its support helping island not-for-profit foundations, and giving back to the community.

Salamander Holding informs that suggestions for different foundations for the fund-raising campaign of 2010 will be considered upon request, by contacting orders@salamanderholdings.com, with the details.

T.H. Palm & Company carries very feminine clothing lines, hand-made bejeweled bags, beach sandals and shoes, wide-brimmed straw hats, artisan jewelry, baby gifts, dog-lovers gifts, innovative household gifts and chic men's clothing and accessories, fresh off designer show rooms and gift-show floors.

In our pictures checks are handed out to island foundations, fruits of the 2008 fund raising efforts.

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 81 | Palm Beach | Radisson.com/Aruba | 526.6612 or 526.6613

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Electronic System For Travel Authorization (Esta)

Advisory Statement

Beginning January 12, 2009, all nationals and citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries will be required by law to obtain a travel authorization prior to initiating travel to the United States under the VWP. This authorization may be obtained online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA™), a free Internet application administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through a U.S. government Web site.

DHS does not charge VWP travelers a fee for completion of an ESTA™ application. Eligible visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP may apply for travel authorization via the ESTA™ Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

VWP travelers should be aware that unauthorized third-parties have established Web sites, which charge visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP, for information about ESTA™ and for submitting ESTA™ applications to DHS on behalf of the traveler. These businesses and Web sites are not endorsed by, associated with, or affiliated in any way with DHS or the United States Government. Again, the United States Government does not charge a fee to obtain information about, apply for, or obtain a travel authorization through the ESTA™ Web site. Use of a private service to apply for travel authorization via ESTA™ will not expedite the granting of approval. The ESTA™ application Web site is available in 16 languages and includes a help section that provides additional information for VWP travelers to guide them through the application process. Additional

information about ESTA™ may be found at <http://www.cbp.gov/esta>.

Each approved ESTA application will be valid for a period of two years, so that a visitor could travel to the United States repeatedly within a two-year period

without obtaining another ESTA. Travelers whose ESTA applications are approved, but whose passports will expire in less than two years, will receive an ESTA valid until the passport's expiration date.

Visitors will need to apply

for a new ESTA if their name changes, if they are issued a new passport, or if any of the answers they previously provided to the ESTA application eligibility questions should change during that two-year validity period. DHS

is designing ESTA to accommodate last-minute and emergency travel. DHS recommends, however, that travelers obtain an ESTA at the time of reservation or ticket purchase, or at least 72 hours before departure to the United States. □

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The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!

The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent **HAVANA Dance** takes the stage. A thrilling mix of Latin/Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy modern/traditional Cuban dance.

HAVANA Dance is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. Don't miss it!

Show time: Tuesday - Saturday at 9pm
Ticket Price: \$49 / Children under 12 pay \$25
Dinner Show package at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House \$89

For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357. Tickets available at concierge desks and the box office at the Renaissance Resort.

25% discount

Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island!

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE

L.G. SMITH'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

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L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for superb dining in a stylish décor.

GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS, GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm
 Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm
 For reservations call **523-6195**
 Located next to the Crystal Casino

\$89

LOVE YOUR STEAK!

*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show menu

Come to Moby Dick's for a whale of a time New Whale Species on Aruba

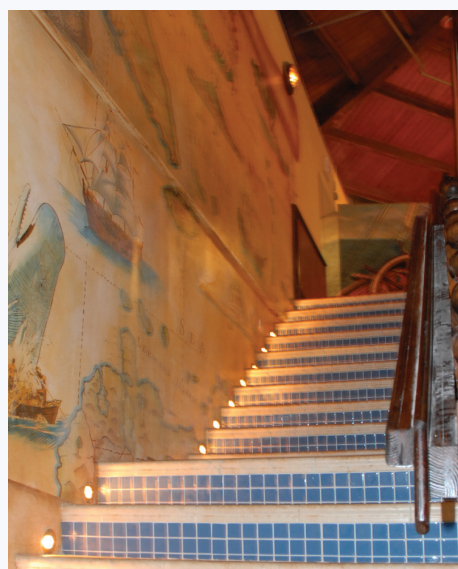
PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's was a long time in the making, but the wait is now over. This week the bar went open for business, and the kitchen will be operational this weekend. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is. The interior on both floors is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by a fountain with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre

optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall.

The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.



Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



Casa Tua makes the best pizzas; period. a recipe perfected over thirty years

Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours.

Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown open from 11am to 11pm, on Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.
For more information or reservations
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695



Red Sail Sports Aruba for all sail cruises

With Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset Sailing along Aruba's scenic Coastline

PALM BEACH – Red Sail Sports is excited to let everyone know about its Catamaran Sailing program. A perfect combination of romance and relaxation, the moonlight sail along the scenic Aruban coastline offers food, drinks, music and more. Nibble on tantalizing snacks while you sit back and enjoy the sounds of live Caribbean music. The open bar offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask the friendly crew for a Captain's Special! Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing all day long aboard Red Sail Sports top quality, well maintained catamarans. If a sunset sail is a little late for the kids, you can set sail on Red Sail Sports' fun-filled Luncheon or Afternoon Snorkel Trips. The Snorkel Sails are safe for kids of all ages and brings



guests to all the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkel spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish, blue head wrasse and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset. A Sunset Sail is truly the best way to watch the sun go down on your Caribbean holiday. **To make reservations or for more information call Red Sail Sports at 586-1603, visit your hotel concierge or your Red Sail Sports representative at the Hyatt, Allegro, Marriott and Renaissance Resorts.**



Get ready for a close and personal encounter with huge, prehistoric birds! The Aruba Ostrich Farm invites you to meet these unique birds and learn more about their behavior, natural instinct and maybe even stand on its enormous eggs. Our Savanna Lodge Restaurant serves ostrich delicacies, chicken dishes, salads, vegetarian dishes and offers a breathtaking view along Aruba's north shore. Don't forget to pay a visit to our African Art Shop!



Bring this ad for a 20% discount on the tour. Not valid with other promotions.

The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

Texas de Brazil offers light and healthy eating

PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of

umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking

to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal ☐

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686



Restaurant open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11

Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm



SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!
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“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of




“Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba



Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill from 8am to 8pm. Closed on Sunday. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



Pam-Pam Restaurant offers a unique gourmet dining experience



Basic Gourmet : Chicken
\$ 15.-
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Grouperfilet
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Salad
Onion - Paprika
French bread with garlic butter
Variety of sauces

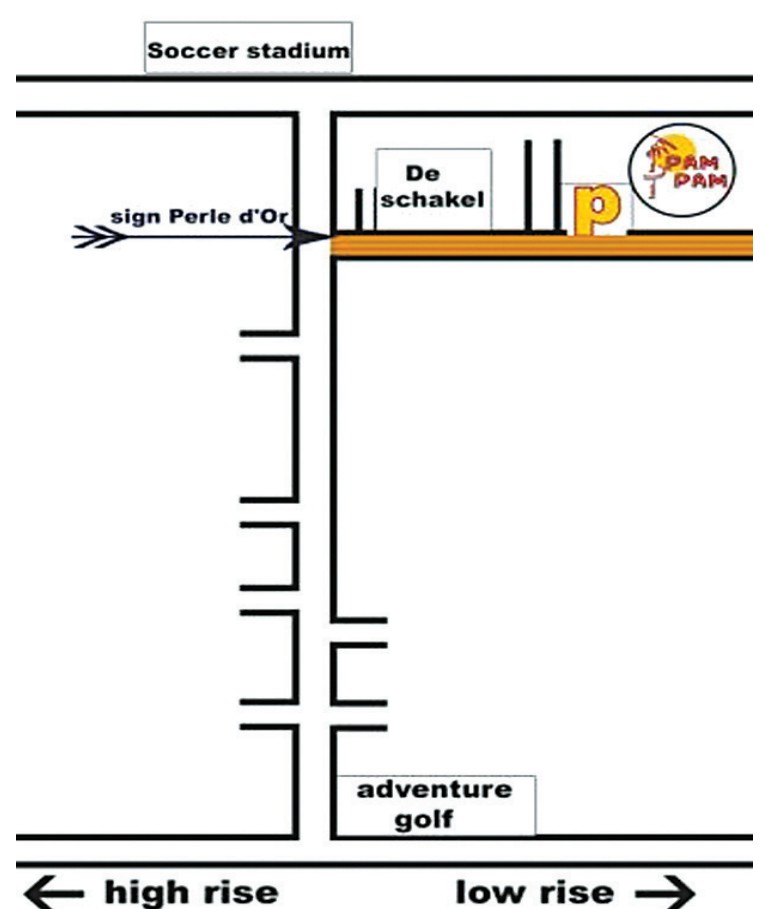
Salad
Patato salad
Onion - Paprika
French bread with garlic butter
Mushrooms
Bacon
Variety of sauces



Located in the charming topical environs of the Perle D’Or Resort, the Pam-Pam Restaurant offers a peek at Aruba’s cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba’s prime resorts. First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced,

Pam-Pam’s house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently, in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their “Gourmet Meal.” A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. Gourmet are priced either \$15 or \$20 p.p.

It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance or at least before 1.00 pm Pam-Pam Café and its proprietor, Nico



and Monique, aside from a wonderful and affordable meal provide a friendly atmosphere and a great place to get to know island life and the islanders that frequent visit this popular restaurant. Open seven days a week for

breakfast, lunch & dinner. It is a perfect stop to relax and enjoy ambiance any time of the day true island. When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com. Phone; 5877710 or 5932660



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Already in October the Christmas shows in the stores were set up to entice you to buy all the ornaments to decorate your home and business. Decorations and figures of a fat, red Santa are available, promising to put anyone in the Holiday Spirits. Medically, when I take a look at the store Santa figure, with his large rotund belly and red face that sports a bulbous nose I see many signs of heart attack candidate. Not that Santa Claus could have heart problems, not allowed.

As cute as round Santa seems to be, most people want to enter the Holiday Season looking fit and trim. In the next two months many people, especially women, are going to pay good money to join commercial weight loss programs in hopes of dropping a size or two. Unfortunately, people tend to regain the weight they lost following a program because once it's finished, they return to their normal eating habits. Furthermore, the body is always trying to fend off what it perceives to be starvation, and losing weight triggers hormone

Festival Figure

changes that make it difficult to keep shedding pounds.

In the last eleven years in our grass-roots clinic we have seen all kinds of lose weight schemes. This year I have listed all the erroneous beliefs that I have heard from our patients.

1. "Lose 30 pounds in 30 days." Any commercial weight loss programs or any other gimmick that pledges massive weight loss quickly is certainly not healthy, and not true. Permanent weight loss requires lifestyle change, not a quick fix. Loosing weight very fast usually means dehydrating your body and loosing muscle.

2. Lose weight by not eating. Without question the worse way to try to loose weight. Starving deprives the body of the nutrients it needs for life and can lead to serious illness. Plus you lose muscle mass, not fat. Even if you do lose pounds, you gain them back almost immediately when you start eating again.

3. Carbohydrates are bad for you. First it was fat, now carbohydrates are the bad guy. Insulin, stimulated by the excess simple carbohydrates in our overabundant consumption of grains, starches and sweets, together with sedentary lifestyles is responsible for all those bulging stomachs, fat thighs and chins. However there are healthy complex carbohydrates, such as vegetables, whole brown

rice and quinoa, which provide vital vitamins, and fiber to aid digestion.

4. Fat is bad for you. Your brain is eighty percent fat; not fat you want to loose. Some fats like trans-fats found in processed foods and sweets are unhealthy, but many called essential fatty acids are good and necessary for your health. Your body is not going to be able to make your hormones without these fats.

5. Drinking Diet sodas help you loose weight. There's not one study that shows diet sodas help you lose weight. Meanwhile while you are drinking your liquid candy you are consuming chemicals that have shown to cause cancer.

6. Salad bars are healthy. Lunch meats with chemical salts, cheeses, oily dressings are not healthy choices. You have to choose foods at a salad bar wisely to loose weight. Meanwhile, "Iceberg" lettuce has absolutely no nutritional value.

7. Don't eat after 6 p.m. Europeans eat at 10 o'clock at night and they're half the size of Americans and Arubans. It is not what time you eat, it's what you eat and staying active for at least three hours after you eat. The worse eating habit here in Aruba after a night of drinking is to eat a late snack at a food truck and then home to bed.

8. Check your weight

on a scale daily to check your progress. Checking your weight on a regular basis is an obvious way to gauge your progress and alter your diet accordingly; however, that scale tells you very little. I encourage patients to keep track of hip, thigh and stomach tummy centimeters and dress sizes that are much more enlightening.

9. To lose weight take a pill or have an operation to have your stomach made smaller. Wow, your insurance company may even pay some of these. You cannot replace healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle choices with a pill or operation. Drugs are not new, they have been tried for many years and both drugs and operations can be dangerous and have horrible side effects. A better choice includes natural dietary supplements which can safely balance nutritional deficiencies, aid in managing unhealthy eating, support restful sleep and increase energy.

10. You have to join the gym. Actually, 30 to 60 minutes per day of moderate physical activity is all it takes to balance healthy food intake. It does not have to be strenuous exercise, just move your body by gardening, walking, swimming, SCUBA diving, flying, dancing or having sex; just get off the couch.

Get The Point! That majority of Americans and Arubans are overweight, and an alarming number are clinically obese. In countries addicted to

convenient processed foods this obesity is no coincidence. It is not the fat in the foods we eat but, far more, the excess simple carbohydrates from our starch and sugar loaded diets. These nutritionally deficient diets not only contribute to increased weight but lead to a whole host of health problems. Want to enter the Holiday Season being fit and trim? That belly might look cute on Santa, but on you it is a major health risk. Call to make an appointment for a professional, safe, sensible weight loss program.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor having studied in Shanghai, China; a Clinical Nutritionist, a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals, the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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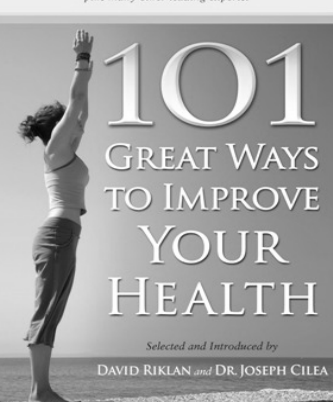
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

Santosa Health Club & Spinning Center



Eagle – The popular Santosa Health Club and Spinning Center is again introducing a novel and exciting form of physical activity, this time for kids, in the form of 50-minute Cheerleading & Pom Pom classes.

The fee to attend this class is Awg 15.- per child. Cheerleading & Pom Pom classes offer movement and dance and develop athletic ability in a most enjoyable, and fun method. Cheerleading & Pom Pom classes are best

defined as “Athletic Dance.” Cheer moves and high energy dance combinations help develop strength, flexibility and coordination in girls who enjoy dancing. After the upcoming holiday



season, classes will be available each Saturday from 11.00 a.m. to 11.50 a.m. Cheerleading & Pom Pom, for girls 8-11 years old, first class offered January 10th; And from 12.00 noon

to 12.50 p.m., Cheerleading & Pom Pom, for girls 12-16 years old, first class offered January 10th. Santosa is a health club and an official Spinning

Center specialized in group exercise sessions. The facility is equipped with two state of the art class rooms and is fully climate controlled. More than 40 classes are



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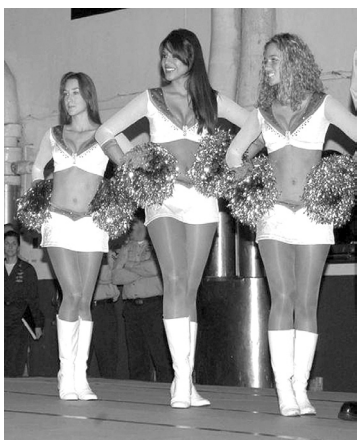
introduces Cheerleading & Pom Pom classes



on the schedule per week, designed from students of all ages, with the minimum age being 4 years.

The club delivers powerful Spinning classes, and strong fitness classes such as Cardio Pump and BLT, fun and exciting dance classes such as the popular Zumba and Dance Fusion.

Classes energizing body & mind such as Yoga, Pi-Yo and traditional Pilates, are offered as well as special Kids & Teen classes. The highly motivated certified instructors, do their very best to keep students' minds motivated and their bodies stimulated, working towards a mutual goal of developing a healthy and active lifestyle. Santosa, which means happiness in the old Indian language is the end result



of body & soul synergy and contentment.



As an extra service to moms, Santosa offers a supervised Kids Club Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., except Sundays, at Awg 5,00 per class taken and a wonderful Espresso Bar, a cozy corner serving delicious coffees and sports drinks Located at Bushiri 30, Tel. 582-8132 or E-mail info@santosa-aruba.com Openings hours: Mon-Fri 8-noon and 4-9 pm, Sat 8.30-12.30 pm Sun 9.30-noon ☐

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Missing since May 30th, 2005

Continued from Front Page

What the Police and this Office have done:

- Already on January 22nd 2008, the day after Peter de Vries had shown the tapes to the Public Prosecutor and the Police, the investigation into the person called “Daury” was started. Finally a person called Daury R. was identified and it turned out that he probably was involved in drug trafficking activities (as had been told by Joran). Because of that and following his own TV-appearance on 20-20, he was arrested in the USA on the suspicion of international drug trafficking. He is currently detained in the USA.
- Investigation into the pay phone in the hotel garden was started as well as finding an answer to the question whether Joran had the possession of a credit card (necessary to use the phone).
- On our request the National Prosecutor’s Office in Rotterdam as well as The National Crime Squad executed numerous requests, such as various house searches and finally the questioning of Joran van der Sloot.
- Since then over 20 witnesses were interviewed, some of them for the second or third time. These interviews pertained mostly to Joran’s missing shoes and the person called “Daury”, Joran’s alleged accomplice.
- Amongst the witnesses were the two brothers who previously were suspects in this case but who, by the new statements of Joran, received an alibi from Joran, when he told the under cover that the two brothers are “jerks” who don’t know anything about what had happened.
- During his stay on Aruba the Police twice interviewed under cover “Patrick”.

Besides the Police investigation Peter de Vries’ program received an enormous amount of information. The serious tips were passed on to my Office in order to have them investigated.

Four of them could be investigated and led to thorough investigation.

Furthermore investigation was conducted into the statement of a fisherman, until that moment unknown by the Police or my Office. This witness, known by the Holloway family, claimed that in the night of the disappearance of Natalee Holloway a large knife was stolen from one of the Fisherman’s huts while at the same time a large crab cage was missing that at least was there until the month of April. This owner of the cage was also interviewed by the Police but told them that this allegedly missing cage had never been left at the huts but was always taken home.

He told the Police that Mrs. Holloway and the press approached him a long time ago and that he had told them his story. His identity was never officially revealed to the Police. It was because the Persistence ship at that time was searching for relevant material on the sea bed that the story about the cage and the fisherman came up in a conversation between this Office and Mr. Dave Holloway, which led this Office to the identity of the witness.

As you may know, the expedition of the Persistence led to only one finding that was supposed to be relevant to this case. Special Police divers brought certain material to the surface of which one might assume could be the clothes of Natalee Holloway. These samples were sent to the FBI laboratory. After examination by the FBI the result was that these samples did not match the clothes of Natalee.

In the month of March 2008 a witness who was urged by Dave Holloway to step forward confronted the Prosecutor’s Office. The man gave a statement on March 16th 2008 accompanied by his lawyer. This witness statement is already widely known: the witness claims he saw Joran van der Sloot in the middle of the night of May 30th walking in front of his house, soaked up to his chest, walking on one shoe and heavily breathing. He was walking into the direction of the hotels, coming from the direction of the Church at Noord. What the witness

was actually aiming for was the Police to conduct an intensive search in the dam of Monserrat. Nevertheless the witness could not give us any reason why the Police should conduct a search in the dam. It was the conclusion of the witness that Joran had come from the dam since he came walking from that direction. There was no indication whatsoever that Joran had been at the dam. For that reason the Police were not ordered to conduct that search. Later, people from the Persistence asked if they were allowed to conduct a search. They were told that they could go ahead if they wanted to. No results were reported. Besides that, the Monserrat dam, which had completely fallen dry by that time, was not long before that request completely searched by dozens of people, for a completely different reason. No results were reported.

This witness has turned himself to Dave Holloway, as we have been told. He has given a new statement and has undergone a lie detector test. According to the summary of the lie detector test results (a full report, as promised to my Office by Tim Miller was never received) the witness was considered to be reliable. This Office never questioned the reliability of what the witness claimed to have seen. Yet, the value of his statement in the reconstruction of facts of that night is very limited. With his sole statement this case could never be solved.

Police and the Prosecutor’s Office are being accused of not following leads in this investigation. Those allegations are unjust and unfounded. Of course it is true that we weigh the information and the source on credibility and value before we start to investigate. But witnesses, who claim to have leads that find no ground in facts whatsoever and therefore are not being investigated by the Police, are free to investigate those themselves. This - of course – within the limitations imposed by law.

I will give you three examples of what we have experienced the last 10 months in terms of leads given by people who claim to have special powers and know where Natalee would be.

The first one claimed that Natalee was in the hands of foreign criminals but could not give us any actual lead to follow.

The second one recently claimed that the girl was buried on an Aruba beach. After consulting my Office and the Police a private search was conducted, only facilitated by the Police. No result was reported.

The third person was very persistent and claimed he had witnesses he could not disclose to my Office. He claimed Natalee was buried under a hotel that was under construction at the time of her disappearance. He requested that my Office would order a hole to be drilled in the hotel floor in order to conduct an endoscopic search underneath the hotel. When the prosecutor asked the man for the undisclosed witnesses and kept asking for his sources, he finally admitted that his theory was based on a dream.

As you can see, this is just a part of what we have experienced over the past months. There is much more of these “leads” which take us an awful lot of time and distract us from the actual investigation. We do not obstruct anyone, but when there is no concrete information or the information is unreliable we chose not to investigate that lead or that information. In that respect the Aruban Police is not different from any other Police force in the world.

CONCLUDING: This I can tell you: during the investigation of which you just received an overview, a series of investigative acts were conducted. I will not disclose the results of that investigation here and now because the investigation is not yet finished and my Office does not want to disclose these results to the suspect and thus make him wiser even before he has been confronted with these results. Only as soon as the investigation into the new statements of Joran van der Sloot has been completely finalized, the suspect will be notified about the decision by my Office whether he will be charged or not. At that time the public also will be informed. If possible investigative results may be disclosed to the public.

When will the investigation be completed?

At this moment the last leads and some minor details are under investigation. These minor questions first

have to be answered before a decision can be made. The Public Prosecutor’s Office expects to have conducted the necessary investigations within a number of months. Exact data cannot be determined. Furthermore I would like to say this. Recently Fox broadcast an interview of Joran van der Sloot recorded by Greta van Susteren in the spring of 2008. In this interview Joran presents yet another new version of the facts. This time he claims he has sold Natalee Holloway on the beach for \$ 10,000 to a person called ‘Adamovic’ after a prearranged agreement. This man had taken the girl from the beach on a boat and sailed away. Although Fox already had the possession of this information for nearly 6 months, it waited to disclose it to the public by the end of November 2008. A request by my Office to provide this information to us digitally was left unanswered. Now suddenly Fox and a lawyer demand that my Office shall conduct an intensive investigation into a story of which the anchor of the program herself already considered the possibility that it could be “a wild goose chase”. Furthermore Joran van der Sloot after the interview was taped, denied that what he said was true. The Fox program also showed an interview with Joran’s American lawyer, in which the program’s anchor implicitly admitted that Joran was paid for the interview. Finally Fox broadcasts a so-called telephone conversation between Joran and his father. The contents of that phone call are supposed to corroborate Joran’s new story. The taped conversation between Joran and his father recently has been downloaded from the Internet by the Police and handed over to the Dutch Forensic Institute. This independent institute, the NFI, has been requested by the Police and my Office to conduct a voice-comparing investigation between the voice on that tape and earlier recordings of Paul van der Sloot. Within a few months we will know whether the material can be investigated and if so, what the results will be. It is more than remarkable that no longer than 5 months after Joran’s so called confessions were taped on hidden cameras by Peter R. de Vries, statements both in the Netherlands and in the USA considered as “the solving of the case”, this Joran now comes forward with a completely different new story. Now this story is being considered as one that urgently has to be investigated. This while there are many indications that Joran simply pulled Fox’s leg and earned himself a lot of money as well. To prove that we are dealing with “a wild goose chase”, the Police on our request have checked some verifiable parts from Joran’s new statement, which show that it is a wild goose chase. The Holloway family lawyer, who demanded the immediate arrest of suspects, was told that the Public Prosecutor, given the legal requirements, couldn’t find any ground in this interview to order an arrest.

Final remarks

Police and the Prosecutor’s Office on Aruba are still conducting an investigation into the disappearance of Natalee Holloway. Yet we are approaching the end of this lengthy investigation and are busy with the last two leads. Now we are still busy I would like to add this: if you have relevant information, no matter how small or uninteresting it may seem, please notify my Office or the Police here on Aruba. The purpose of the criminal investigation is to establish beyond reasonable doubt what has happened to Natalee Holloway on the night of May 30th 2005. Have crimes been committed against her and, if so, which crimes and by whom? And if someone is responsible for crimes committed, that person, whoever he may be, should be held accountable for those crimes in a court of law. Yet that result still has not been met. In short: it is the Police and the Prosecutor’s Office that have, and should have, the primary responsibility for a criminal investigation. That is the way it is legally laid down in our judicial system. If others want to help, we will applaud them doing so. Yet, when those activities start to get counter productive and under circumstances jeopardizes the investigation, we should address the public and make them aware of these effects. In order to prevent that happening we thought it fit to inform you through this press conference. □



1/2 Century celebration on Aruba



PALM BEACH - Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Fiorenzi of Lodi, New Jersey, USA were Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba have been visiting the island for more than 36 years. Congratulations to the couple for celebrating on Aruba. □



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The hottest place to be cool is Bugaloe!



PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot. Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course. Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier on the beach between the RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort at the Hi-Rise strip: an easy walk from all the major hotels.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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Web site:

www.bugaloe.com

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umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portobello mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking

to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal ☐

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686



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Wednesday, January 7, 2009



Illinois U.S. Senate Appointee Roland Burris makes a statement after departing Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009.

Associated Press

111TH Congress convenes pledging to rescue economy

WASHINGTON — The Capitol rang loud with vows to fix the crisis-ridden economy Tuesday as Congress opened for business at the dawn of a new Democratic era. “We need action and we need action now,” said Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Republicans agreed, and pledged cooperation in Congress as well as with President-elect Barack Obama — to a point.

On a day largely devoted to ceremony, new members of Congress and those newly re-elected swore to defend the Constitution.

The Senate galleries were crowded; children and grandchildren of lawmakers squirmed in their seats in the House chamber as the winners in last fall’s elections claimed their prizes.

One office-seeker was not among them.

In a scripted bit of political theater, Democrat Roland Burris of Illinois was informed he would not be seated because his paperwork was not in

order. He pledged a lawsuit, the latest twist in a political drama that began when he was named to Obama’s Senate seat by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who has been charged with having attempted to sell the appointment.

Obama was across town in a meeting with his economic advisers as the opening gavels fell in the House and Senate at noon. His inauguration as the nation’s first black president is two weeks away.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a veteran of numerous battles with President George W. Bush, made plain how glad he was the old administration was winding down.

“We are ready to answer the call of the American people by putting the past eight years behind us and delivering the change that our country desperately needs,” he said on the Senate floor. We are grateful to begin anew with a far more robust Democratic majority.”

Continued on Page B4

Natural gas shortages slam some EU nations



A gas pressure gauge is seen at a snow-covered transit point on the main pipeline from Russia in the village of Boyarka, near Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009.

Associated Press

By MARIA DANILOVA

Associated Press Writer

KIEV, Ukraine — A natural gas crisis loomed over Europe on Tuesday, as a contract dispute between Russia and Ukraine shut off Russian gas supplies to six countries and reduced gas deliveries to several others.

At least two Bulgarian cities were totally without gas, and nations like Turkey were turning to Iran to bolster their supplies.

Continued on Page B7

Israel shells near U.N. school killing at least 30

By IBRAHIM BARZAK and
STEVE WEIZMAN

Associated Press Writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza — An Israeli bombardment hit outside a U.N. school where hundreds of Palestinians had sought refuge on Tuesday, and Palestinian medics said at least 34 people died — many of them children — as international outrage grew over civilian deaths.

It was the second fatal strike in the vicinity of a U.N. school in hours, and the deadliest assault since Israel sent ground forces into Gaza last weekend. The ground operation is part of a larger offensive against the ruling Hamas militant group that has killed nearly 600 Palestinians, including dozens of civilians, according to U.N. and Palestinian officials.

Ignoring international calls



Israeli Army soldiers take cover as a mobile artillery piece fires towards targets in the southern Gaza Strip, on the Israel side of the border with Gaza Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. Israel ignored mounting international calls for a cease-fire and said it won’t stop its crippling 10-day assault until ‘peace and tranquility’ are achieved in southern Israeli towns in the line of Palestinian rocket fire.

Associated Press

for a cease-fire, Israeli soldiers edged closer to Gaza’s major population centers. A total of 58 Palestinians were killed

Tuesday in fighting — with just two confirmed as militants, health officials in Gaza said.

Continued on Page B6

Gates estimates 2009 war costs at \$136 billion



Defense Secretary Robert Gates presents President George W. Bush with the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal during a military farewell ceremony at Ft. Myer in Arlington, Va., Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen is at right.

Associated Press

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert Gates says military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan would cost almost \$136 billion for the 2009 budget year that began Oct. 1 if they continue at their current pace.

Speaking for neither his current boss, President George W. Bush — nor his future one, President-elect Barack Obama — Gates told top lawmakers in a New Year's Eve letter that the Pentagon would need nearly \$70 billion more to supplement the \$66 billion approved last year.

"This estimate is my personal assessment and does not reflect the position of the Bush administration or the incoming Obama administration," Gates said.

The estimate would cover Pentagon operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other elements of the global war on terror. An official request for war funding is coming next year, Gates said, after a review by the Obama administration.

In the letter, sent to the chairmen of the House and Senate panels overseeing the war, Gates said that Congress should expect that the Obama administration "will conduct a fresh review of these matters and provide an updated and more authoritative proposal early next year."

Gates also said the estimate doesn't account for a proposed increase in the tempo of operations in Afghanistan. Congress provided about \$188 billion for the global war on terror in the 2008, according to the Congressional Research Service, as a surge in Iraq operations helped bring greater stability to the troubled nation. Obama has promised to bring down war costs as he works to remove most U.S. combat troops.

All told, CRS says, Congress has approved \$864 billion for the overseas wars and other programs related to the battle against terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001. Such funding includes military operations, base security, reconstruction, foreign aid, embassy costs and veterans' health care. □

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State unemployment claim systems overwhelmed

By **RICHARD RICHTMYER**
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. — Electronic unemployment filing systems have crashed in at least three states in recent days amid an unprecedented crush of thousands of newly jobless Americans seeking benefits, and other states were adjusting their systems to avoid being next.

About 4.5 million Americans are collecting jobless benefits, a 26-year high, so the Web sites and phone systems now commonly used to file for benefits are being tested like never before.

Even those that are holding up under the strain are in many cases leaving filers on the line for hours, or kissing them off with an “all circuits are busy” message. Agencies have been scrambling to hire hundreds more workers to handle the calls.

Systems in New York, North Carolina and Ohio were shut down completely by technical glitches and heavy volume, and labor officials in several other states are reporting higher-than-normal use.

“Regardless of when you call, be prepared to wait and just hang on. Try not to get frustrated,” said Howard Cosgrove, a spokesman for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, which boosted its staff of telephone operators by 25 percent last month to cope with a phone system that has been overloaded for weeks. “We sympathize, we’re on their side, we’re doing our best to help them out.”

The nation’s unemployment rate in November zoomed to 6.7 percent, a 15-year high. Economists predict it will rise to 7 percent in December, with another 500,000 jobs probably cut last month. The government releases its monthly employment report on Friday.

Some states attribute the increase in call volume in part to an extension of federal emergency unemployment compensation from 13 weeks to 20 weeks in late November. More than 54,000 Pennsylvanians had exhausted their federal benefits after 13 weeks by the time that occurred, said David Smith, a

spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

“It really was a perfect storm,” he said.

New York’s phone and Internet claims system started to buckle on Monday afternoon and was out of service completely for the first half of Tuesday while as many as 10,000 people per hour tried to get in, said Leo Rosales, a state Labor Department spokesman.

Although that was an unusually high number of calls, Rosales said it was a software glitch in an authentication system used to verify filers’ identities that caused the system to crash

“It’s designed to handle this volume of calls, but the authentication process didn’t work as it should have,” he said. Rosales said the glitch that caused the shutdown has been fixed, and the agency doesn’t expect any more problems.

About 256,000 people are collecting unemployment in New York, up from about 184,000 at this time last year.

North Carolina’s Web site crashed twice this week under a rush of claims as that state set one-day records for both the amount of benefits paid and the number of transactions.

On Sunday and Monday, the number of North Carolinians trying to sign up online for new or continuing benefits was about triple what it was before the economic slowdown started, according to the state Employment Security Commission. That volume, together with a phone line problem, overwhelmed the agency’s computers and prevented some people from filing claims.

The system was working again by Monday afternoon after the agency added another server and demand decreased, officials said.

“Right now, everything is back to normal,” agency spokesman Larry Parker said.

Ohio’s unemployment hot line also is being crushed by callers, leaving thousands unable to get through Tuesday and no alternative because the Web site for filing claims also is down, according to Brian Harter, a spokesman for the state

Department of Job and Family Services. Harter said the hot line generally receives about 7,500 calls a day, but has been getting about 80,000 a day this week.

Callers to Michigan’s main phone line handling applications for jobless benefits got an “all circuits are busy now” message Tuesday afternoon. Officials in Michigan, which had the nation’s highest jobless rate at 9.6 percent in November, recently began urging applicants to seek benefits through a state Internet site instead. Michigan counted about 473,000 people as unemployed in November, up from about 370,000 a year ago.

Unemployment agencies from Kentucky to Alaska also are reporting long hold times for callers and slowdowns for



Christine Beatty is escorted to jail in Detroit, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. Nearly a year after headlines lit a City Hall sex scandal, the former top aide to ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was sent to jail to serve the same punishment as her boss: 120 days with time shaved for good behavior.

Associated Press
By **COREY WILLIAMS** and **ED WHITE**

Associated Press Writers

DETROIT — The former top aide and ex-lover of disgraced ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick followed her old boss to jail Tuesday, the last step in a criminal case that shook up Detroit politics for a year after romantic text messages between the pair made headlines.

Christine Beatty, once an influential figure at Detroit City Hall, waved goodbye to loved ones as she was ushered from a courtroom to begin a 120-



In this Dec. 5, 2008 file photo, Diana Hay of Albany, N.Y., searches for a job at a New York State Department of Labor career center in Albany, N.Y. New York’s unemployment claims systems crashed this week, overwhelmed by tens of thousands of jobless New Yorkers trying to call or log in at once ahead of this week’s filing deadline.

Associated Press

those filing online because of higher volume.

Several states have added staff to their call centers to handle the surge, including Oklahoma and Washington. Pennsylvania has hired temporary workers and expanded the hours of its unemployment benefits hot line

to accommodate a surge in the number of calls, going from 600 employees to 800. Officials hope to eventually have 1,100 workers answering calls.

New Mexico has extended call-center hours, upgraded the phone system and added 15 workers. □

Ex-Detroit mayoral aide gets 120-day jail sentence

day jail stay for obstruction of justice. She will serve her term in Wayne County jail, where Kilpatrick has been serving an identical sentence since late October.

Beatty and Kilpatrick, both 38, were charged with lying about their affair under oath during a 2007 civil trial on claims that two police officers were punished for investigating alleged wrongdoing in the mayor’s inner circle.

The officers won their case, ultimately costing the city millions of dollars, but the scandal didn’t break until January 2008 when the Detroit Free Press published sexually explicit text messages that exposed courtroom lies and extramarital trysts by Beatty and Kilpatrick, former high school classmates.

“It’s now my hope that with this sentencing ... that this chapter in the city’s history will be closed,” Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny said.

Beatty, Kilpatrick’s former chief of staff, agreed to the sentence when she pleaded guilty in December. Kenny made it official during a morning court hearing.

Beatty also must pay \$100,000

to the city and cannot attend law school during her five-year probation.

Given the chance to speak, Beatty declined, saying: “No, your honor. Thank you.”

Kenny praised Beatty for her “dignified” conduct during various court hearings but also criticized her and her former boss, blaming them for a scandal that damaged the city.

“I do think that this case does represent the triumph of truth over political power and might and it also indicates, I think, that lying under oath in court has a price tag, even for those who are the politically elite within the community,” the judge said.

Deputy Chief Gary Brown and officer Harold Nelthrope claimed their police careers suffered when Kilpatrick learned they suspected misconduct by his security unit. Among the allegations: Police bodyguards helped cover up Kilpatrick’s extramarital affairs.

A jury ruled in favor of Brown and Nelthrope, and Kilpatrick vowed to appeal. But he subsequently settled the case and another one for a total of \$8.4 million when he learned that a lawyer for the former officers had obtained the mayor’s text messages. □



Illinois U.S. Senate Appointee Roland Burris makes a statement after departing Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009.

111TH CONGRESS

Continued from Page B1

At the same time, in comments directed at Republicans, he said, "we are in this together" when it comes to the economy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, health care and the country's energy needs.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, replied in a speech of his own, saying, "The opportunities

for cooperation are numerous." He said Democrats should avoid a "reckless rush to meet an arbitrary deadline" to pass an economic stimulus bill that could reach \$1 trillion, and he outlined possible changes in the approach Obama and the Democratic congressional leaders have been considering. Among them was a proposal to cut taxes by 10 percent. Another was to lend money to

hard-pressed state governments rather than give it to them. "States will be far less likely to spend it frivolously" in that case, he said. By the new political calculus, McConnell will soon be the most powerful Republican in government after elections that handed Democrats the White House and left them with gains of least seven seats in the Senate and 21 in the House.

Associated Press

McConnell's counterpart in the House, Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio, handed the speaker's gavel to Pelosi in a traditional unity tableau. He, too, pledged cooperation, then said, "America's potential is unlimited. But government's potential is not. We must not confuse the two."

Obama spent much of Monday in the Capitol, conferring with Republicans and Democrats alike on the economic stimulus measure he hopes to sign early in his term. The nation's consumer spending has plummeted, manufacturing has withered and job losses have grown in recent months, adding urgency to the legislative effort in contrast to the customary sluggish start to a new Congress.

Strikingly, the war in Iraq drew scant mention during the day, a contrast to the weeks of debates that Democrats once had forced to try and maneuver Bush into withdrawing American forces. Reid mentioned the fighting in passing when he noted the country was fighting two wars overseas, a reference to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pelosi was even more indirect, saying, "We cannot afford to wait to modernize and rebuild our military."

Like Reid, she focused her remarks on domestic issues, the

economy chief among them. "We need action and we need action now," she said again and again, calling for help for "hardworking and still hopeful Americans" bearing the brunt of the economic crisis, for the states struggling to provide services, for families without health care, for a climate crisis and for energy needs. Speechmaking and celebrations aside, House Democrats pushed through a series of rule changes, including one that calls for greater disclosure of earmarks. They also repealed the six-year term limit for committee chairman. It was a legacy of the Republican Revolution that swept through Congress in 1994, and in erasing it Democrats evinced confidence in the strength of their majority status.

In all, 34 senators were sworn in, and apart from the controversy involving Burris, one other Senate seat was in limbo.

Democrat Al Franken holds a 225-vote lead over former Sen. Norm Coleman in Minnesota, a result certified on Monday by the state Canvassing Board. He has not yet received a certificate of election, and with Republicans threatening to protest, Democrats made no attempt to seat him.

Inevitably, it was a day for personal transitions.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware took the oath of office for a seventh time for a seat he has held for more than 30 years and will soon relinquish to become Obama's vice president.

Anh "Joseph" Cao, who arrived in the United States as an 8-year-old war refugee, was sworn in as the nation's first Vietnamese-American lawmaker. He's a Louisiana Republican.

Across the Capitol in mid-afternoon, the chamber nearly deserted, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, 91, spoke about his 50 years in the Senate.

"I look forward — yes, look forward — to the next 50 years," he said.

He spoke from a wheelchair, his hair white, his voice often faltering. □

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Police arrest parishioners at New Orleans church

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Police on Tuesday cleared out two New Orleans Catholic churches occupied by former parishioners opposed to the archdiocese's decision to close them, breaking down a door at one.

Two protesters were arrested and at least two more were issued citations, police said.

"It's our property. It's our church. It belongs to the Archdiocese of New Orleans," said The Very Rev. Michael Jacques, a member of the archdiocese's Council of Deans.

Officers forced open the door at Our Lady of Good Counsel in the city's Uptown neighborhood, arresting two people occupying the building, and issued one of the summons to a protester occupying St. Henry's, also in Uptown.

Parishioners calling themselves the Friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel had occupied their church since October, when the archdiocese closed it and several others in an economic move to consolidate parishes following Hurricane Katrina and shifting populations of Catholics in the area.

St. Henry's parishioner Cynthia Robidoux, 46, said she received a summons to appear in municipal court after brokering a deal with police to allow others keeping vigil to leave.

"It's unbelievable. They stole my church," Robidoux said of the archdiocese.

The church viewed the parishioners as trespassers and called police after the protesters repeatedly refused to leave. They said a routine inspection of church property on Monday found that the doors at Our Lady of Good Counsel were locked and barricaded.

Archdiocese spokeswoman Sarah Comiskey said parishioners were removed to protect the safety and security of the buildings and the people occupying them, which included children and the elderly.

"The archdiocese all along had hopes for a peaceful resolution to the occupations, but recent events made it necessary for us to go forward," Comiskey said. Cheron Brylski, a parishioner who was outside Our Lady of Good Counsel, said the group had been trying to mediate the dispute with the archdiocese. "Instead, they are using force,"

she said. Police used a battering ram to break down the church's back door, said Poppy Z. Brite, one of the two people arrested at Good Counsel. Brite, a local author of eight novels, said she and another protester were booked and charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest and were released without bond to appear Wednesday in Municipal Court. □

A parishioner is placed in the back of a police car by a New Orleans Police officer after being taken out of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic church in New Orleans Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. He was one of two congregation members that police arrested after they occupied the building to protest its closure by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Associated Press



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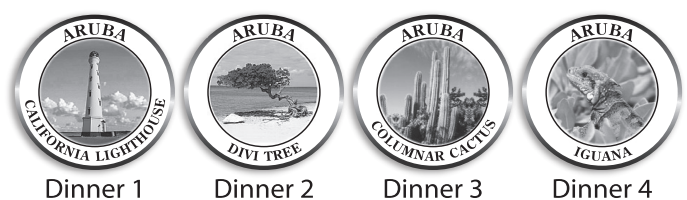
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UN proposes Green Zone-style base in Somalia



UN envoy to Somalia Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah said in Nairobi, Kenya, Monday, Jan. 6, 2009 that the U.N. plans to move its Kenya-based operations to neighboring Somalia but he gave no time frame. He says the move could involve creating a Baghdad-style 'Green Zone.' The U.N. envoy to Somalia says the organization cannot effectively help Somalia overcome almost 20 years of conflict, hunger and disease without having a proper base in the country.

By TOM MALITI

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — Three masked gunmen fatally shot a Somali aid worker Tuesday, as the U.N. envoy to Somalia said the United Nations should create a Baghdad-style Green Zone in the African country so he can base all his aid workers there.

The U.N. now keeps its international Somalia staff members in Kenya to shield them from the risk of attacks and kidnappings. In 2008, at least 13 aid workers were killed in Somalia, which has not had an effective government since 1991.

"It is very difficult to address (the) Somali situation from Nairobi (the Kenyan capital). I think it is even negative,"

Associated Press

the envoy, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, said during a news conference in Nairobi, Kenya. "We should have a Green Zone, if necessary, in Somalia."

Ould-Abdallah did not give a time frame for creating a fortified, walled-off area like the Green Zone in Iraq used by U.S.-led forces, but it would be costly and time-consuming.

Somalia is now at a dangerous crossroads. The president resigned in late December, saying he has lost most of the country to Islamic insurgents, and the Ethiopian troops who have been protecting the fragile, U.N.-backed government have begun pulling out, leaving a dangerous power vacuum. Islamic groups are starting to fight among themselves for

power.

On Tuesday, three gunmen shot Ibrahim Hussein Duale, a 44-year-old Somali who was a school feeding monitor in the Gedo region of central Somalia, the U.N. World Food Program said. Duale leaves a wife and five children, the agency said in a statement. Somalia has been beset by anarchy and an insurgency that has killed thousands of civilians and sent hundreds of thousands fleeing. Foreigners, journalists and humanitarian

workers are frequently abducted for ransoms in the Horn of Africa nation, which the United States fears could become a haven for al-Qaida. On Tuesday in the capital, Mogadishu, the spokesman for the small African Union peacekeeping force said an AU soldier was killed during a land-mine clearing operation. The lawlessness also has allowed piracy to flourish off the coast. In northeastern Somalia, a regional security minister said France had

handed over 19 Somali pirates to local authorities.

Ould-Abdallah said he hopes an upcoming parliamentary vote — expected in Somalia by Jan. 28 — to name a new president will not be corrupt like past votes that have been tainted by secret deals.

"Somalis have to work to expand their government, try to have a government of national unity and vote for a new president," Ould-Abdallah said. □



Palestinian boys inspect the rubble at a building following Israeli forces' operations in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009. Israeli forces edged closer to Gaza's major population centers on Tuesday and attacked new targets, including a U.N. school, taking more civilian lives after ignoring mounting international calls for an immediate cease-fire.

ISRAEL SHELLS

Continued from Page B1

"There's nowhere safe in Gaza. Everyone here is terrorized and traumatized," John Ging, the top U.N. official in Gaza, said after the first strike on the compound of a U.N. school killed three people.

A Palestinian rocket — one of two dozen fired from Gaza on Tuesday — wounded an Israeli infant.

The United Nations said three civilians were killed in the first airstrike late Monday on the courtyard of its school, where hundreds of people from a Gaza City refugee camp had sought shelter from Israel's blistering 11-day offensive.

A second Israeli strike about 10 yards outside a U.N. school in the northern Gaza town of Jebaliya. Witnesses reported several explosions, and it was not immediately clear whether they were caused by Israeli airstrikes or tank shells.

Dr. Bassam Abu Warda, director of Kamal Radwan Hospital, said 34 people were killed.

"I saw a lot of women and

Associated Press

children wheeled in," said Fares Ghanem, another hospital official. "A lot of the wounded were missing limbs and a lot of the dead were in pieces." Majed Hamdan, an AP photographer, said he rushed to the scene shortly after the attacks. He said many children were among the dead.

"I saw women and men — parents — slapping their faces in grief, screaming, some of them collapsed to the floor. They knew their children were dead," he said. "In the morgue, most of the killed appeared to be children. In the hospital, there wasn't enough space for the wounded."

He said there were marks of five separate explosions, all in the same area outside the school.

U.N. officials say they provided their location coordinates to Israel's army to ensure that their buildings in Gaza are not targeted.

The army declined comment, but said Hamas often uses schools, mosques and civilian areas for cover. Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev also

refused to react, saying he was waiting for the military to comment.

The international Red Cross said an ambulance post was hit as well on Tuesday, injuring one medical worker.

Israel launched its offensive on Dec. 27 to halt repeated Palestinian rocket attacks on its southern towns. After a weeklong air campaign, Israeli ground forces invaded Gaza over the weekend.

Nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 100 civilians, according to United Nations and the latest Palestinian figures. Ten Israelis have died since the operation began, including a soldier who was shot on Tuesday.

"I am appealing to political leaders here and in the region and the world to get their act together and stop this," Ging said, speaking at Gaza's largest hospital. "They are responsible for these deaths."

United Nations staff estimate around 15,000 people have fled to 23 U.N.-run schools they have turned into makeshift refuges. U.N. food aid has halted in the northern Gaza Strip because officials fear residents would risk their lives to reach distribution centers.

Tanks rumbled closer to the towns of Khan Younis and Dir el Balah in south and central Gaza but were still several kilometers (miles) outside, witnesses said, adding that the sounds of fighting could be heard from around the new Israeli positions. Israel already has encircled Gaza City, the area's biggest city.

The rising civilian death toll has drawn international condemnations and raised concerns of a looming humanitarian disaster. □

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NATURAL GAS

Continued from Page B1

In a sharp turnaround, the European Union blasted Russia and Ukraine, saying the sudden cutoff to some of its member countries was "completely unacceptable." Just a day ago, the EU was trying to downplay any problems from the gas dispute.

In response, Russia and Ukraine agreed to hold new talks on the contract dispute over Russian natural gas that travels to Europe through Ukraine's pipelines. The two neighbors are locked in a dispute over pricing and overdue payments. Russia cut off supplies to Ukraine on Jan.

1 but had promised to keep gas moving to Europe.

The head of the Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz, Oleh Dubina, said he would travel to Moscow on Thursday for new talks. He made the decision after speaking to Alexei Miller, chief executive of Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled monopoly gas supplier.

"Given the crisis situation, we are ready to start talks at any moment," said Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov.

Wednesday is Orthodox Christmas, a holiday in both Russia and Ukraine.

The energy dispute sharply escalated Tuesday when six

countries on the other end of the pipeline network running from Russia through Ukraine reported a complete shutoff.

Chief spokesman for the European Commission Energy office, Ferran Tarradellas Espuny, speaks during a press briefing at EU headquarters in Brussels, Tuesday Jan. 6, 2009.

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Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp.

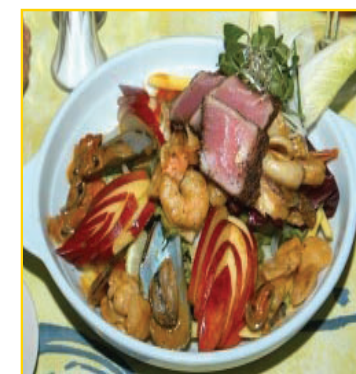
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Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day.

The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice.

Every **Wednesday**, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps.

a half years ago and has been a great success since day one.

Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More,

staff Luc, Heidi, Stefan, Rense, Chef Gerben, Sandro, Marco and Jan work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for eve-



The Earlybird menu
Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm
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Catch of the day
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Actress Alyssa Milano to wed Hollywood agent



In this Feb. 3, 2007 file photo, Alyssa Milano arrives At the Playboy Super Bowl XLI party in Miami.

(AP Photo/Carlo Allegri, file)

LOS ANGELES — Who's the fiance? Alyssa Milano is engaged to marry a Hollywood agent.

Publicists for Milano said Tuesday that the actress accepted a marriage proposal on Dec. 18 from David Bugliari, an agent at Creative Artists Agency.

The two have been dating for over a year. No wedding date has been set.

The 36-year-old "Who's the Boss?" star most recently has appeared in a recurring role on "My Name is Earl." Her other TV credits include "Charmed" and "Melrose Place." □

Alan Colmes plays Colbert's sidekick for a day

By JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Divorced from his longtime co-host Sean Hannity, Alan Colmes was adopted by Stephen Colbert — for a day, at least. On Monday's "The Colbert Report," Colbert introduced the Fox News commentator as his new co-host.

It was the first episode of the Comedy Central show following the holiday break, and Colbert unveiled a completely new format, dubbing the show "Colbert & Colmes." The new design featured a "C & C" graphic and a chair behind the desk for Colmes (albeit one a foot or two shorter than Colbert's).



In this image released by Comedy Central, Alan Colmes, left, appears with host Stephen Colbert on the set of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, in New York.

(AP Photo/Comedy Central)

In November, Fox News announced that Colmes, the liberal half of "Hannity & Colmes" for the last 12 years, was leaving the show but would remain a commentator on the channel.

Sensing he could push around his liberal sidekick, Colbert — who plays a mock conservative pundit — gave Colmes a list of preapproved comments, such as, "Hamburger, you're good," and "Aw, snap!"

Colbert made it clear he was still in charge. Graphics repeatedly overlaid Colmes' face and when Colbert went to interview his guest — John King of CNN — he told Colmes, "No, no. Stay, stay." At the end of the show, the comic said he and Colmes would be back every night with "hard-hitting political

opinions" (pointing to himself) "and top-notch listening" (pointing to Colmes).

But an argument ensued when Colmes pointed out errors in a metaphor Colbert concocted. The two parted ways with Colmes exclaiming "Boo-yah, Colmes away!" before, in a puff of smoke, he turned into a bat.

Reached by phone Tuesday, Colmes had returned to his human self.

"It was very well done," said Colmes, who is developing a new weekend show for Fox News.

As to how working with Colbert compares to working with Hannity, Colmes said: "Both are extremely gracious, although I feel a lot taller sitting next to Sean Hannity." □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Saints QB Brees is AP Offensive Player of Year

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — Drew Brees understood what breaking a record set by Dan Marino would mean to the New Orleans Saints.

So coming up 15 yards short was disappointing to the Saints quarterback, who won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award Tuesday.

Brees threw for 5,069 yards, 15 fewer than Marino's 1984 mark and only the second time someone has eclipsed 5,000 yards passing in a season.

"The only reason I still even think about it is because I know how much it would have meant to the offensive line and the skill position guys," Brees said. "Those guys were 10 times more upset than I was about not getting the record. I just feel like they really, especially down the stretch, looked at that as something that, for all the heartache and all the ups and downs we had this season, that

was something they hang their hats on.

"So that's who I wanted to get it for, so that's why I'm still upset. I'm over it, for myself, but I guess I'm not over it for them." Although the Saints were 8-8 and didn't make the playoffs, Brees performed so well he earned 22 votes in balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the league. That easily beat Peyton Manning, the NFL Most Valuable Player for the third time for Indianapolis, and Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson. They tied for second with nine votes each.

San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers received six votes, and Carolina running back DeAngelo Williams (2), Atlanta running back Michael Turner (1) and Carolina wide receiver Steve Smith (1) also got votes.

"I don't come out from week to week and say I have to throw for 300 (yards)," Brees said. "I don't think about that. It's really about what I can do to help this

team win.

"Certainly in this offense, being the quarterback, you're in the driver's seat. You have the opportunity to control every play and have it in your hands. Every play is about me making good decisions and putting it in a guy's hands who is open or our playmakers working to their strengths. That's my job."

Brees tied with Rivers, his former teammate with the Chargers, with a league-leading 34 touchdown passes. Brees was fourth in passer rating (96.2) and led the league in attempts (635) and completions (413).

He also spent much of the season without key weapons like receiver Marques Colston, running back Reggie Bush and tight end Jeremy Shockey, who were plagued by injuries.

Yet Brees kept throwing — and connecting.

"Each year I've gotten better, especially over the last five years," he said. "When I go back to 2004 in San Diego, every year I feel so much more

NFL OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Drew breezes to NFL honor

New Orleans Saints Drew Brees, who became only the second quarterback to eclipse 5,000 yards passing in a season, was named The Associated Press Offensive Rookie of the Year Tuesday.

2008 highlights

- Passed for 5,069 yards, 15 short of Dan Marino's single-season record
- Tied for league-lead with 34 TD passes

Top vote-getters

PLAYER	TEAM	VOTES
Brees	Saints	22
Adrian Peterson	Vikings	9
Peyton Manning	Colts	9
Philip Rivers	Chargers	6

SOURCE: National Football League



AP

comfortable. I really feel like I've refined my routine and continued to find what works for me. It changes a little bit every year. I tweak it every year to make it a little better, but by doing so, I make myself a better player."

He is the perfect player for coach Sean Payton's system.

"When you look at the body of work for him and you look at what he's been able to do with the number of guys being

hurt," Payton said, "you look at his efficiency down the field with throws over 20 yards, over 30 yards. His completion percentage, his red zone, his third-down scoring offense, he's first in every one of those categories. He's worked extremely hard, and when you see what he does in preparation during the work week, it's amazing."

Brees is the first Saints player to win the award. □



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony holds his right wrist after it was wrapped in an ice pack after he was hit going up for a shot against the Indiana Pacers in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 135-115 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

DENVER (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points and had a season-high nine assists despite fracturing his right hand in the Denver Nuggets' 135-115 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Anthony injured his hand when the ball was slapped away early in the third quarter. He continued playing, but frequently grabbed at his hand. He had the Nuggets trainer check it out a few times when play stopped and then left for good late in the fourth

NBA Roundup

Nuggets: Anthony has 'probable' fracture in hand

quarter.

The team doesn't know how much time he'll miss. He's going to see a specialist on Tuesday.

Kenyon Martin scored 25 points and Chauncey Billups scored 13 of his 24 points in the final quarter for the Nuggets, who have now won four in a row. They set a season-high in points against the Pacers. Their previous best was 132 against Toronto in early December.

Denver is 24-12 after 36 games, matching the Nuggets' best start since their first year in the NBA in 1976-77.

Danny Granger had 36 points, the most scored against the Nuggets this season. He's now scored 30 or more points 10 times this season.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP)—Vince Carter scored 29 points, Yi Jianlian added 22 points and a season-high 13 rebounds and the Nets handed the Kings their 11th straight road loss.

Jarvis Hayes had a go-ahead 3-pointer with 4:53 to play as the Nets won consecutive games at home for the first time this season. New Jersey won despite playing the second half without point guard Devin Harris, who aggravated a hamstring injury before the break.

Kevin Martin, who scored 45 on Saturday night, had 36 points for the woeful Kings (8-27). The reserve scored 11 in the second half, when he was 3-of-12 from the field.

New Jersey cut a 12-point deficit to two after three quarters as Yi had 10 in the third and Carter

added nine.

MIAMI (AP)—Tim Duncan had 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Southwest Division-leading Spurs won their third straight.

San Antonio put five players in double figures, ran out to a quick 10-point lead and shot 59 percent in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

George Hill scored 15 points on 4-for-4 shooting for the Spurs, who got 11 points from both Roger Mason and Matt Bonner and 10 from Manu Ginobili.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points and 12 assists—his eighth double-double of the season—for the Heat, who also got 15 points from Shawn Marion. Michael Beasley had 15 points and 12 rebounds for his first double-double with Miami. □

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week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000	week#2,3,4,5,6,OccidentalGr-3Bdr 3Baths,OceanFront-US\$70,000pw	week# 1 - DiviPhoenix - Studio R#204, Oceanfront - US\$9,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000	PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000	week#2biannual-DiviPhoenixStudio. R#404,Oceanfront- US\$6,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000	PlatinumPl. W#52- Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3-DiviPhoenix -1Bdr R#601,Oceanview- US\$12,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000	PlatinumPL.W#52- Marriott Surf. 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$55,000	week#3&4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$16,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000	week#5-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#206,Oceanfront US\$23,000
week#2,3,4,5,6-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$18,000pw	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	week#6&7-DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#302,Oceanfro.-US\$25,000pw
week# 52 - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#442a-Ocean/pool-US\$17,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week#52(2x)-La Cabana -2Bdr R#128b/c-Ocean/po-US\$25,000	week# 1 -CostaLinda - 2Bdr. R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000	week#52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#2206-Poolview-US\$18,000
week# 52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#137a,OceanView- US\$9,000	week#1 CostaLinda - 2Bdr R#1014,OceanView-US\$24,000	weeks#50,51,52,-DiviLinks-1Bdr R#4226-,Ocean/p-US\$16,000pw
week# 3,4,5,6LaCabana.-2Bdr. R#346e-OceanF.-US\$30,000pw	week#4,5,6 - Costa Linda-2Bdr. R#1016,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week#1,2,&3 -DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,Ocean/P-US\$16,000pw
week# 52,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#4522 - Poolv - US\$9,500	week# 4, Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2012,Oceanview.-US\$24,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000
week# 51,52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4586, Poolv - US\$9,500 pw	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 4-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#2105,Poolview-US\$16,000
week# 1,2, Aruban Resort- 1Bdr R#4585,Poolv - US\$8,000 pw	week# 5-Costa Linda- 2 Bdr. R#3004,Ocean/Pool-US\$26,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R#4584, Poolview - US\$8,000	week#1,2,Renaissance -1Br R#2508,GardenV-US\$10,000pw	week# 1- DiviVillage - 2 Bdr R#5502/03,PoolV.- US\$17,000
week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#1586,poolview- US\$8,000pw	week# 3,4Renaissance-1Bdr R#2142,Oceanv-US\$15,000pw	week# 51&52-DiviVillage-studio R#7204,OceanV,US\$10,000p.w
week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#3586, poolv- US\$7,000pw	week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$14,000	week# 1,Paradise B.V - 1 Bdr. R#227, Oceanfront-US\$15,000	week# 1-RIU Palace - 2Bdr R#269,Oceanfront-US\$27,000
week#52(2x).ArubanRes-2Bdr R#4524/20,poolv- US\$9,500pw	week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week# 3,4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49,PoolV US\$18,000pw
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000	week# 52 ,DiviPhoenix -Studio. R#110,OceanFront - US\$11,000	Whole year AmsterDManor-2Bd R#213,OceanPV-US\$520,000
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San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers



Emergencia	911
Polis	100
Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Warda Polis	582-4000
BGD Oranjestad	582-8877

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Ambulance	584-5050
Warda Polis	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Informacion	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
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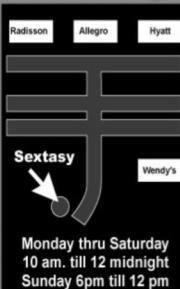
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Venezuela expulsa embajador Israel por ofensiva Gaza

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela anunció el martes la expulsión del embajador de Israel en Caracas, poco después de que el presidente Hugo Chávez acusó al mundo de callar cobardemente ante lo que calificó de "Holocausto" palestino.

El mandatario, enemigo político de Washington, pidió además que los líderes de Israel y Estados Unidos sean juzgados en un tribunal internacional en respuesta a la ofensiva militar de ese país en la Franja de Gaza en contra del grupo islámico Hamas.

"El Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ha decidido expulsar al Embajador de Israel y a parte del personal de la Embajada de Israel en Venezuela, reafirmando su vocación de paz y su exigencia de respeto al Derecho Internacional", dijo la cancillería a través de un comunicado.

El texto señaló además que el Gobierno "no descansará hasta ver severamente castigados a los responsables" y aseguró que su representación en Naciones Unidas (ONU) presionará al Consejo de

Seguridad para detener la ofensiva militar que ha dejado cerca de 600 muertos y miles de heridos.

Chávez calificó de "genocidio" la ofensiva israelí contra el grupo islámico Hamas en la Franja de Gaza, que ha devastado gran parte de ese empobrecido territorio palestino con continuos ataque aéreos y terrestres.

"¿No rechazan los judíos el Holocausto? ¿Y qué es lo que actualmente estamos viendo que ocurre en Gaza? Pónganse la mano en el corazón y sean justos", dijo tras acusar al Ejército israelí de "asesino" y "cobarde".

El presidente venezolano culpa a Washington de estar detrás de los ataques en Gaza y criticó el "cinismo" de la Casa Blanca por acusar de poco democráticos a gobiernos como Irán y Cuba, mientras justifica el ataque israelí.

"Los que acusan, no sólo a mí, a este Gobierno, de ser un Gobierno tiránico, asesino, callan cobardemente (ante la incursión israelí)", dijo el mandatario en un acto transmitido por la televisión

estatal desde un hospital infantil.

"El presidente de Israel (Ehud Olmert) en este momento debería ser llevado a la Corte Penal Internacional junto con el presidente de Estados Unidos (George W. Bush), si hubiera vergüenza en el mundo", agregó.

Chávez, quien durante sus casi 10 años de gobierno ha estrechado lazos con países enemigos de Israel, como Siria y Líbano, suspendió una visita que estaba pautada para la tarde a una mezquita en Caracas, pero se prevé que el canciller acuda a la cita.

El líder sudamericano, que arremetió en el pasado contra Tel Aviv por sus acciones militares en la región, volvió a pedir al mundo que detenga "esta locura".

En el 2006, Chávez estuvo a punto de romper relaciones diplomáticas con Israel tras acusarlo de ser peor que el dictador alemán Adolfo Hitler, lo que provocó un conflicto en el que ambos países retiraron sus respectivos embajadores. □



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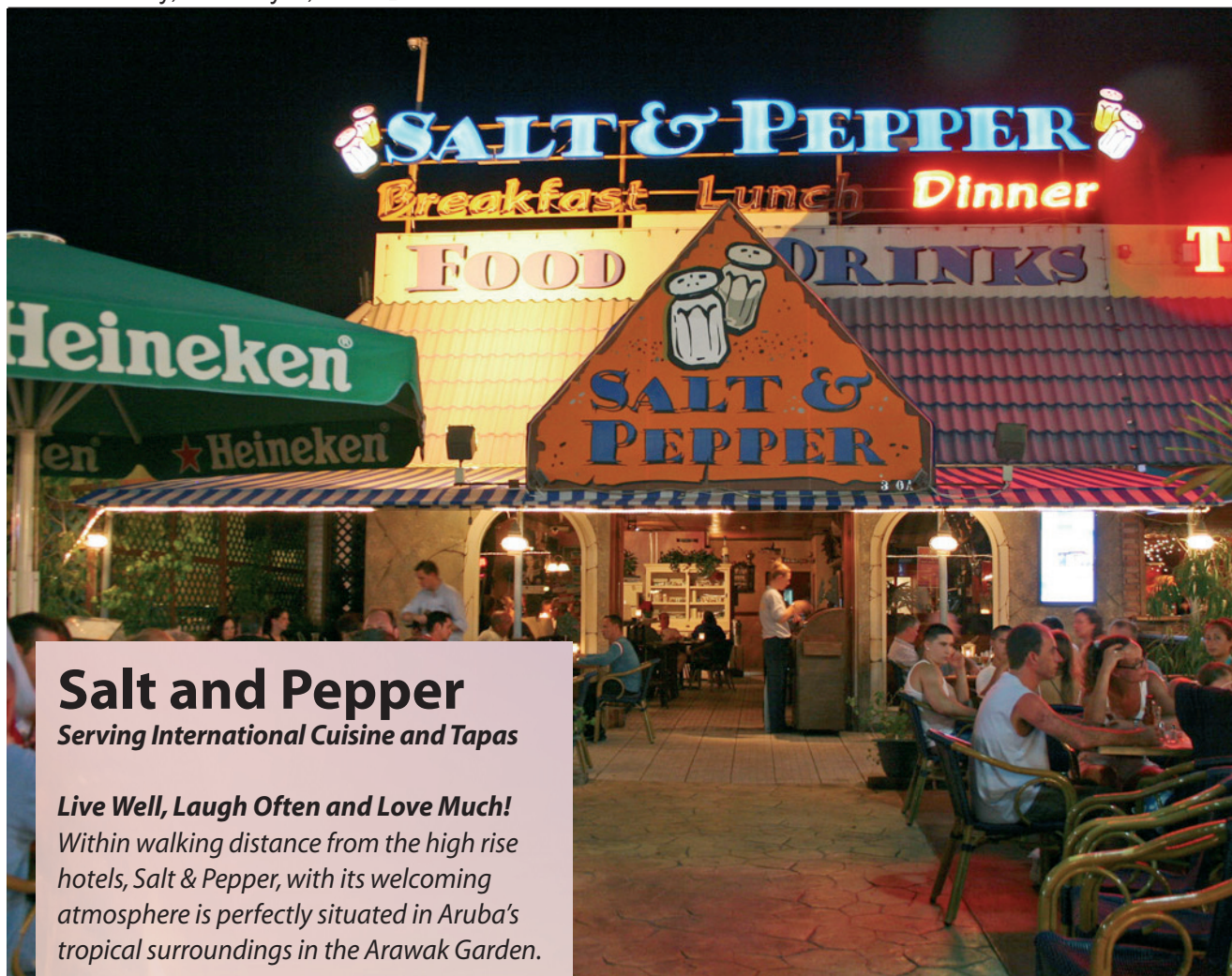
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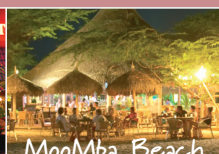
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